Penalties for Violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

2081. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to starred Question 191, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a final view on the revised penalties for contravening the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been rise in wildlife crimes, even by the zoo staff members; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Proposals for enhancing the penalties for wildlife offences has not been finally approved.

(b) does not arise.

(c) The process of examination of the proposals has yet not been completed.

(d) and (e) An unusual case of killing of Caiman crocodile by zoo staff in Nandan Kanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar, on 27-7-2000 has come to the notice of the Government. The staff has been dismissed and prosecution has been launched against him.

Recovery of Tortoises in Andhra Pradesh

2082. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rare varieties of 200 tortoises and 100 carcasses were recovered in Andhra Pradesh in October, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to protect the live tortoises?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) State Government has reported that 336 Indian Soft Shelled turtles (*Lissemys punctaqta*) were seized at Gokavaram in east Godavari district